Forestry

*Lesson Plan for Grade K*

*Prepared by The Department of Ecosystem Science and Management,*

*Penn State University*

*Modified by Mississippi State University, School of Human Science*

*for Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation - AITC*

# OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

In this lesson students will learn that a forest is made up of many important parts. Forest stewardship is the responsible use and planning of forestland management. The public is able to practice forest stewardship in a variety of ways.

# EDUCATION STANDARDS

**Mississippi College-and-Career Readiness Standards:**

L.K.3B Students will demonstrate an understanding of the interdependence of living things and the environment in which they live.

ELA-SL.K.1 Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about Kindergarten topics and text with peers and adults in small and larger groups.

# OBJECTIVES

* Students will identify the different components of a forest.
* Students will discover that forest stewardship is the responsible use and planning of forestland management.
* Students will recognize that they can be a forest "friend" or steward.

# MATERIALS NEEDED

* Blank Paper (1 piece per student)
* Crayons or colored pencils (Enough for each student to use)

# Lesson Set Up:

1. Have pieces of paper and crayons ready for students to use.

# Vocabulary

**Stewardship:** the job of supervising or taking care of something, such as an organization or property.

**Forest management**: is a branch of forestry concerned with the overall administrative, legal, economic, and social aspects, as well as scientific and technical aspects, such as silviculture, protection, and forest regulation.

# Ag Facts:

* About 65 percent of Mississippi’s land is in forest. This is about 19.7 million acres according to the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.
* The value of Mississippi’s timber harvest has exceeded $1 billion each year since 1993 and reached an all-time record of 1.45 billion in 2005.

# Background Information for Teacher:

Forestry is the art, science, and practice of studying and managing forests and plantations, and related natural resources.

Silviculture, a related science, involves the growing and tending of trees and forests.

Modern forestry generally concerns itself with assisting forests to provide timber as raw material for wood products; wildlife habitat; natural water quality regulation; recreation; landscape and community protection; employment; aesthetically appealing landscapes; and a 'sink' for atmospheric carbon dioxide.

A practitioner of forestry is known as a forester.

Forests have come to be seen as one of the most important components of the biosphere, and forestry has emerged as a vital field of science, applied art, and technology.

Foresters may be employed by industry, government agencies, conservation groups, urban parks boards, citizens' associations, or private landowners.

Industrial foresters are predominantly involved in planning the timber harvests and forest regeneration. (<https://www.sciencedaily.com/terms/forestry.htm>).

# LEARNING PROCEDURES

Interest Approach:

1. Ask students:

**"What do you think when you hear the word forest?"**

1. Listen and respond to student input. [Show a photograph of a forest.] Explain that it is correct that forests have many trees, but forests have many interesting parts! Today we are going to find out about these parts as well as what we can do to help keep the forest beautiful!

Activity l:

1. Brainstorm a list of things found in the forest with the children. This list will in part help you with the following activity.
2. Explain each part of the forest in basic terms. (Trees, animals, soil. Other plants, etc.)

Discuss that all the parts work together so that the forest is healthy. Each part must be doing its job so that the forest stays in good working condition.

Activity 2:

1. Read the following text will fuel a discussion on forest stewardship. It was taken directly from [*From the Woods: Forest Stewardship*](https://extension.psu.edu/from-the-woods-forest-stewardship) (Penn State Cooperative Extension, Adam K. Downing, Sanford S. Smith, James C. Finley, and Shelby E. Chunko).

Stewardship means being responsible for something and taking good care of it such as protecting your belongings and using them carefully without harming or wasting them. So whether we use a forest for hiking, hunting, or getting wood, we need to be good forest "stewards" so that other people can use the forest today, tomorrow, and for many years to come.

Even though you may not own a forest, you can still be a forest steward. You are a forest steward when you choose to use products from renewable resources (e.g., trees). You are a forest steward when you recycle wood and paper products. You are a forest steward when you keep the forest beautiful by not littering. You are a forest steward when you don't hurt plants and trees (without good reason). Someday, you might have a forest of your own. You will be a forest steward when you plan for and choose to do the things in your forest that keep it healthy and useful for plants, wildlife, and people.

1. Talk about the many benefits of the forest habitat. Ask students, "What can you do to keep the forest healthy and useful?"
2. Have students draw their ideal forest using crayons or colored pencils. Make sure they have several different parts to their forest.
3. Display the students drawings and close the lesson by stating:

**Concept Elaboration and Evaluation**

* Explain to students:

"**Today you've discovered what it means to be a 'forest friends or steward. I hope that when you visit the forest you will remember all the great things you can do to help!"**

Additional Learning Procedures

To help students review and elaborate more about forestry, try using the [“Think Pair Share”](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uj8Db7whr4Xtn8gkAiQ6MV0GZnLBW4Rw/view?usp=drive_link) method to allow students to think deeper and make new connections.



Source: <https://ecosystems.psu.edu/>

*For more information and additional lessons visit*

*https://msfb.org/ag-in-the-classroom/lesson-plans/.*